

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 ARA-10 EA-10
NEA-10 /120 W

-----101460 201411Z /43

O 201300Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8391

USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 DAR ES SALAAM 1754

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

USICA PASS TO USINFO FOR PGM/RC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: MUGABE TRIES TO IMPROVE PF IMAGE AT MALTA II

SUMMARY. TWICE IN THE LAST TWO DAYS PATRIOTIC FRONT CO-LEADER ROBERT MUGABE WENT TO THE PRESS TO DISCUSS MALTA II, APPARENTLY TO CORRECT (IN HIS VIEW) THE IMPRESSION THAT PF INTRANSIGENCE HAD PREVENTED TOTAL AGREEMENT ON THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL. MUGABE WAS PROBABLY ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT HIS OWN IMAGE AS THE TOUGHEST NEGOTIATOR AT MALTA II. HIS VILLAINS WERE MAINLY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, FOR HAVING DOWNPLAYED THE
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AGREEMENT THAT WAS ACHIEVED, BUT ALSO US JOURNALISTS WHO ACCOMPANIED SECRETARY VANCE. MUGABE WAS GENERALLY POSITIVE ON ROLE OF SECRETARY VANCE AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG BUT MILDLY CRITICAL THAT US ACQUIESCED IN BRITISH CHARACTERIZATION OF MALTA II RESULTS. END SUMMARY.

1. ROBETY MUGABE MET AT HIS REQUEST WITH FOREIGN PRESS

REPRESENTATIVES IN DAR ES SALAAM EVENING OF APRIL 18. MUGABE'S
OPENING STATEMENT REVIEWED PF CONTRIBUTIONS TO MALTA II:

A) PF HAD CONCEDED FULL EXECUTIVE POWERS TO RESIDENT COMMISSIONER
FOR DEFENSE AND LAW AND ORDER. BUT, MUGABE SAID, THE
LEGISLATIVE ASPECT OF THESE MATTERS RESTED WITH THE GOVERNING
COUNCIL, ON WHICH PF MUST HAVE AT LEAST A SLIGHT MAJORITY.
RESIDENT COMMISSIONER COULD EXERCISE HIS POWERS IN THESE AREAS
AFTER NON-BINDING BUT COMPULSORY CONSULTATIONS WITH MINISTERS
OF DEFENSE AND LAW AND ORDER, WHO WOULD BE REPRESENTATIVES OF PF.

B) PF HAD AGREED TO INCLUDE "ACCEPTABLE ELEMENTS" OF PRESENT
RHODESIAN POLICE ALONG WITH PF POLICE IN POLICE FORCE DURING
TRANSITION PERIOD. THIS WOULD ESTABLISH A NEUTRAL POLICE FORCE
IN SUPPORT OF OBJECTIVE OF FAIR ELECTIONS.

C) PF HAD ACCEPTED UN FORCE DURING TRANSITION IF ITS MANDATE
CLEARLY DEFINED AND IF CERTAIN CONDITIONS ESTABLISHED. IN PF
VIEW, UN FORCE WOULD NOT ONLY SUPERINTEND CEASE FIRE BUT
WOULD ALSO "DISARM, DISMANTLE, AND DEMOBILIZE" SMITH'S
FORCES. UN FORCE WOULD ALSO MAINTAIN COUNTRY'S SECURITY AND
GUARD ITS BORDERS. ITS MANDATE WOULD CEASE AT THE END OF
THE TRANSITION PERIOD.

2. "AND SO, " MUGABE CONTINUED, "WE FAILED TO GAIN CONCESSIONS
THE WHOLE WAY THROUGH." HE SAID THAT HE HAD NO CAUSE TO CONCLUDE
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THAT THE BRITISH WERE UNHAPPY ABOUT THIS AND COMPLAINED THAT
OWEN ALWAYS DESCRIBED AS "FUNDAMENTAL" ANY CHANGES THE PF
WANTED TO MAKE.

3. MUGABE SAID THAT THE PF HAD TO ENSURE THAT WITHIN THE
AAP "WE GET A PROCESS WHICH WOULD NOT DO US DOWN." AAP AS
IT STOOD, MUGABE THOUGHT, SOUGHT TO NEUTRALIZE THE PF IN A
VARIETY OF WAYS. "OBVIOUSLY IT IS AN ATTEMPT TO DESTROY OUR
ARMY. POLITICALLY, WE WOULD BE FACED WITH STRUGGLING AGAINST
A HOSTILE POLICE FORCE DURING THE CAMPAIGN." MUGABE ALSO
THOUGHT SMITH'S LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS WHICH WOULD
BE HELD OVER WOULD MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT TO CAMPAIGN FREELY.

4. MUGABE DENIED THAT ANY COMMITMENT TO ACCEPT THE AAP
HAD BEEN MADE BY THE PF AT THE D J FRONT LINE SUMMIT IN
LATE MARCH. HE SAID THE PF DID NOT NEGOTIATE WITH THE FRONT LINE.
THE PF RECEIVED ADVICE FROM THE FRONT LINE BUT NOT PRESSURE\$

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 DAR ES SALAAM 1754

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5. DURING QUESTION PERIOD MUGABE'S RESENTMENT OF PRESS
TREATMENT DURING MALTA AU CAME OUT QUITE STRONGLY. A ZANU
COLLEAGUE REMARKED DURING THE INTERVIEW THAT THE AMERICANS
"BROUGHT THE WORST PRESS THEY HAVE EVER TAKEN TO AFRICA."

6. COMMENT. JOURNALISTS WHO ATTENDED APRIL 18 SESSION WITH
MUGABE WERE QUITE CONVINCED THAT MUGABE WAS INTENT ON CORRECTING
(IN HIS VIEW) THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PF, AND HIMSELF ESPECIALLY,
HAD BEEN INTRANSIGENT DURING MALTA II TALKS. THEY THOUGHT
MUGABE WAS PARTICULARLY UNHAPPY WITH HIS APRIL 16 PRESS
CONFERENCE WHERE, HE FELT, QUESTIONS BY AMERICAN JOURNALISTS HAD
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BEEN CALCULATED TO MAKE HIM APPEAR AN EXTREMIST AND A MARXIST.
REGIONAL VOA CORRESPONDENT SAID HE FOUND MUGABE AT THIS SESSION
SURPRISINGLY MORE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO US ROLE IN RHODESIA THAN
IN THE PAST. END COMMENT.

7. MUGABE REPEATED MESSAGE TO TANZANIAN PRESS IN APRIL 19 INTERVIEW IN SOMEWHAT STRONGER TERMS. DAILY NEWS REPORTED THAT MUGABE ACCUSED BRITISH OF TRYING TO FALSIFY ACHIEVEMENTS OF MALTA II IN THE HOPE OF SOLICITING INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR THE SALISBURY SETTLEMENT. MUGABE SAID THAT CONTRARY TO THE IMPRESSION BEING CREATED BY THE BRITISH, THE PF HAD MET THE US AND UK MORE THAN HALFWAY. IN EXPLAINING THE CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF AGREEMENT THAT HE CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN REACHED, MUGABE AGAIN CLAIMED PF HAD MADE SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS ON UN FORCE AND REGIONAL COMMISSIONER'S POWERS. HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED IN THESE AREAS. ONLY ON THE QUESTION OF COMPOSITION OF THE POLICE FORCE, HE SAID, HAD AGREEMENT NOT BEEN REACHED. (MUGABE MAY HAVE GONE FARTHER EVEN THAN THIS. WE NOTE AFP REPORT OF APRIL 19 FROM DAR ES SALAAM THAT AGREEMENT AT MALTA II HAD BEEN REACHED IN ALL THREE AREAS - RESIDENT COMMISSIONER'S POWERS, UN FORCE, AND INTEGRATION OF POLICE.)

8. COMMENT. TANGOV-OWNED DAILY NEWS, WITH HEADLINE "ZIMBABWE PATRIOTIC FRONT EXPOSES UK PLOT ON RHODESIA," GAVE APRIL 19 INTERVIEW MAXIMUM COVERAGE. TANGOV AND PF AT THIS POINT SHARE COMMON INTEREST IN DOWNPLAYING ANY SHORTCOMINGS OF MALTA II. MUGABE APPEARS INTERESTED IN GOING BEYOND THIS TO PROMOTE BELIEF THAT MOST ISSUES WERE RESOLVED AND COMPLETE AGREEMENT WAS PREVENTED ONLY BECAUSE OF BRITISH DUPLICITY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, MEETINGS, NATIONALISTS, ALLEGATIONS, POLITICAL CONCESSIONS, MALTA II
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780169-0276
Format: TEL
From: DAR ES SALAAM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2906903
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: MUGABE TRIES TO IMPROVE PF IMAGE AT MALTA II SUMMARY. TWICE IN THE LAST TWO DAYS PATRIOTIC FRONT CO- LEADER ROBERT MUGABE WENT TO THE PRES S TO DISCUSS
TAGS: PDEV, SOPN, RH, TZ, UK, US, (MUGABE, ROBERT)
To: STATE ICA
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/057079aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014